

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1 and 3-17 are amended and claims 19-24 are added. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action objects to the disclosure because of informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the specification obviates the grounds for objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-6, 11-12, 14 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments obviate the grounds of rejection. More specifically, dependent claims 3 and 11 do not recite starting at zero, rising to a positive voltage and then falling back to zero as appears to be alleged in the Office Action. Therefore, applicants do not understand the Office Action's rejections with respect to these claims. The specification describes that an initializing driver simultaneously supplies a falling ramp waveform and a rising ramp waveform following the falling ramp waveform to the scan electrode and the sustain electrode. Further, dependent claims 4 and 12 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively. Additionally, dependent claim 17 has been amended to recite a data voltage without specifically reciting the claimed second polarity.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application satisfies the enablement requirement as the specification enables one skilled in the art to make and/or use the claimed features. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

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The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments obviate the grounds for rejection. That is, independent claim 1 is amended to recite --to the address electrode--. This obviates the ground for rejection. Further, each of dependent claims 7, 13 and 15 are appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8-9, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by WO 03/098586 to Tae et al. (hereafter Tae). The Office Action also rejects claims 2-3, 6, 10-11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tae in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0222835 to Yoon et al. (hereafter Yoon). The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

The present application claims priority from Korean Application No. 11767/2003, filed February 25, 2003. A verified English language translation of the Korean priority document is attached. The Korean priority document supports each of the rejected claims. Tae and Yoon both have U.S. effective filing dates subsequent to the Korean priority date. Therefore, Tae and Yoon are not prior art to the pending application (under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)). The rejections of Tae and Yoon should be withdrawn at least for these reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites an initializing driver for initializing the cells, and an address driver for selecting on-cells by applying data of a first voltage to the address electrode and applying a scan pulse of a second voltage to the scan electrode, and for selecting off-cells by applying data of a third voltage to the address electrode and applying the scan pulse to the scan electrodes, wherein the third voltage is higher than the first voltage.

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The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, Tae does not teach or suggest selecting on-cells and selecting off-cells. The Office Action cites Tae's FIG. 6a as showing these features. That is, the Office Action (on page 7) asserts that Tae's FIG. 6a shows that when cells are on, a voltage -VA is applied to the address electrode while a voltage VS is applied to the scan electrodes and when a cell is off, a voltage of GND is applied to the address electrode and a voltage VS is applied to the scan electrode. However, independent claim 1 specifically recites selecting off-cells and selecting on-cells. Voltage of -VA and VS applied to cells does not correspond to selecting on-cells as those features would be known to one skilled in the art from reading the present specification. Further, voltages of GND and VS does not correspond to selecting off-cells as would be known to one skilled in the art from reading the present specification. See also dependent claims 21-22.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Tae does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1. Yoon does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 1 missing from Tae. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 9 recites selecting on-cells by applying data of a first voltage to the address electrode and a scan pulse of a second voltage to the scan electrode, and selecting off-cells by applying data of a third voltage to the address electrode and the scan pulse to the scan electrode, wherein the second voltage is higher than the first voltage.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Tae does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 9. See also dependent claims 23-24. Further, Yoon does not teach

or suggest the features of independent claim 9 missing from Tae. Thus, independent claim 9 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 17 recites a reset period for initializing cells, an address period for selecting the cells using a scan voltage of a first polarity and a data voltage, and a sustain period for maintaining a discharge of the cells using a sustain voltage of the first polarity.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 17. That is, Tae does not teach or suggest the claimed address period and sustain period. Yoon does not teach or suggest the features of independent claim 17 missing from Tae. Thus, independent claim 17 defines patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 9 and 17 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

For example, dependent claim 5 recites a sustain driver for supplying the fourth voltage to the sustain electrode in an address period to select the on-cells and the off-cells. Tae and Yoon do not teach or suggest at least these features of dependent claim 5. Thus, dependent claim 5 defines patentable subject matter at least for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-24 are earnestly

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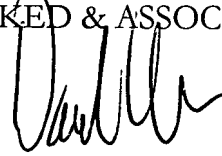
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solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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